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Kindschi come from cold

Angry ex-CIA official tells his Rewald story

First of a series

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John C. "Jack" Kindschi used to be a CIA agent who claimed he was a businessman.

But Kindschi says he met his match in Ronald R. Rewald, a businessman who now claims to be a CIA agent.

"He sure turned the tables on me," says Kindschi.

The CIA trusted Rewald to provide "commercial cover" — a company with business cards, stationery, a telephone number and address — for some CIA activity.

Kindschi trusted Rewald with his life savings. Now he says Rewald stole the money.

The battle is not over. Rewald, facing criminal charges based in part on Kindschi's testimony, says he is innocent and the CIA is to blame. And Kindschi says Rewald is trying to set him up as the fall guy.

Now, Kindschi has come in from the cold to defend himself.

In an exclusive Advertiser interview, Kindschi offered an intimate view of Rewald and his operation.

He said Rewald was not a CIA intelligence officer, that Rewald could not have been a covert agent while going around town claiming to be one, that Rewald's "reports" to the CIA were of a kind that would go "into the round file."

And Kindschi, in response to a question in a deposition, is also on record as saying that no one in the CIA ever told him the CIA would honor any financial obligations of Rewald's company, Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong.

Warm and charismatic, Rewald influenced the meek and the mighty and betrayed the trust of his family and closest friends, Kindschi said.

Kindschi portrayed Rewald as an outwardly decent and upstanding business and family man. Even Rewald's quirks — a fascination with idol Elvis Presley, buying cars and horses like toys, retreating into the fantasy world of movies — seemed innocuous, he said.

But they showed a desire for instant satisfaction, Kindschi said.

Kindschi said that when he asked Rewald why he had let so many people down, Rewald twice broke down and cried. But each time Rewald returned to his

own cover, that of a businessman/spy betrayed by sinister forces.

Kindschi came to Honolulu in 1978 as chief of station for the CIA here. He became one of Rewald's closest personal friends. Early in 1979, he began investing his own life savings and his widowed mother's inheritance in Rewald's companies, an amount that eventually totaled nearly \$400,000.

In 1980, after retiring from the CIA, Kindschi was hired as a consultant in Bishop Baldwin.

Jack Kindschi doesn't look like a secret agent. A coin collector, hiker and sometime birdwatcher, he is short

and, at age 57, portly. His face is cherubic.

He could play Santa better than spy.

But he is an angry cherub, a wounded Santa.

When Rewald attempted suicide last July 29 and the company collapsed, Kindschi felt "hurt, puzzlement, compassion, rage." Today, there's more rage than compassion.

"He's ruining so many lives. It's one thing to take my money and attack me directly, but another thing to attack my friends and my mother, and I shall never forgive him for that."

Rewald attorney Robert Smith has publicly suggested that tracing the source of Kindschi's money would answer a lot of questions about the company's CIA link.

Today, Kindschi offers a sheaf of papers for inspection: "My father had died in 1982 and left an estate, and we put a substantial sum in (Bishop Baldwin) and I took full responsibility for putting all of my mother's money in there. I have documents here . . . that prove conclusively and decisively that that money came from 40 years of hard work by my father, and we can track it right back, and I have given the complete

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